

**Councilmember Terry Ryan** 

January, 2016



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## **Terry's January Newsletter**

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Snohomish County Council



## **Snohomish County Office of Neighborhoods**

Snohomish County has seen its homeless population grow exponentially over the last few years. This is one of the most pressing issues in Snohomish County which affects all of us.

The people living in these camps include the down and out, mentally ill and people addicted to drugs. Social and health services did all they could to help but they lacked the partnerships to truly turn the tide of homelessness.

Ty Trenary, our County Sheriff saw the need and gap in the system. In early 2015, Ty initiated the "Office of Neighborhoods" program to allocate resources and partnerships to help the homeless. This is an outreach program designed to make our communities safer. We want to help those who want to be helped. The program is working and making a difference for our county!

The Office of Neighborhoods is staffed by a Snohomish County Sergeant, two Deputies and an imbedded social worker. Their office is located in the south precinct in Mill Creek. This unit has been working tirelessly to identify, find, and reach out to the homeless (and most vulnerable populations) in our county. The goal is simple- Break the endless cycle of homelessness in Snohomish County.

The Sheriff invited me to go for a ride-a-long with the Office of Neighborhoods to see the situation first hand. There are several homeless camps throughout the county. We visited two of these camps. One is near the 128th Street SW overpass and the other is near the Alderwood Mall. I was impressed with the interaction between the Deputy Sheriffs, the social worker and the people in the homeless camps. The unit knew the people in the camps by name and showed tremendous compassion. They were making sure the people were doing everything needed to qualify for social programs-Obtaining identification, applying for health care and scheduling an evaluation to see what services they qualify for...

Thank you to Sgt. Ian Huri, Deputy Bud McCurry, Deputy Adam Malaby and Jesse Calliham for your work to help these people become productive citizens!

When considering the homeless, we need to remember-

- \* All of these people are someone's brother, sister and/or child. They deserve a chance to get back to being a productive person in society.
- \* We have to try because it wouldn't be right to walk away and in solving this problem, our neighborhoods will be safer.
- \* Each homeless person this unit turns around saves the taxpayer tens of thousands of dollars.

Due to the success of this program, The Sheriff's Office has every intention to expand and create more success stories.

#### **Economical vacations!**

As more families choose economical vacations closer to home but still want the full outdoor experience, Snohomish County campsites and rentals are more popular than ever. Reservations are already being taken for this spring, summer and fall. You can visit the Snohomish County Parks and Recreation web site (www.snoco.org) to look at available campsites, cottages and yurts. Have less time? "Day-cation" facilities are also available. Don't forget Snohomish County Parks for your recreational needs: Less travel and more fun!

# Healthcare Industry Expected to Have Fastest Growth and Add Most Jobs by 2024 - Courtesy of the Economic Alliance of Snohomish County

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported last week that nationally "Healthcare occupations and industries are expected to have the fastest employment growth and to add the most jobs between 2014 and 2024."

This is due, in large part, to the aging U.S. population, who will need more health care services in the next couple decades. This is reflected in the predicted increase in consumer spending on healthcare - from 15% of all spending in 2004, to 18% in 2024.

The report goes on to note that "healthcare and social assistance" will become America's largest industry sector by 2024, with 13.6% share of all jobs.

These patterns will be felt in Snohomish County. WA ESD reports that Snohomish County already has an older workforce than the state average as well as large and growing health care industry.

### County Unemployment Rate in November is 5%, Jobs Grew 2.7%

- courtesy of the Economic Alliance of Snohomish County

The WA ESD reported last week that Snohomish County's unemployment rate increased to 5% in November 2015. This is the same as November 2014. The increasing rate tends to be seasonal. Overall the employment numbers are positive. Total employment increased to 284,500 jobs with monthly gains concentrated in retail due to holiday shopping seasons. Year over year, the County has gained 7,600 jobs, a 2.7% growth rate. The largest annual gains were attributed to hiring in construction (1,800), retail trade (1,300), education and health services (1,200) and government (1,000).

# Thanks to Boeing employees for participating in the 2015 Spirit of the Holidays drive!

Boeing employees once again contributed generously to our community.

They gave \$103,379 which the Boeing Company matched with \$60,756. This provided nearly 3,000 gifts to 5,600 foster children through the Treehouse Holiday Magic program.

The organization adopted 748 families made up of 1,272 adults and 1,902 children. They also adopted 1,047 seniors and 305 individuals with special needs.

Finally, 14,106 toys were collected for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program.

Thank you to everyone for such generosity!

## A Gift of Safety - Courtesy of the Department of Information Services

Snohomish County is a wonderful place to live, but there are risks that come with our mountains, trees and rivers. Mountains can have severe weather, hills can slide, trees can catch fire, and rivers can flood.

Right now, you can give someone peace of mind by giving them a gift of safety. Make sure that person can get the earliest possible warning about floods, fires, extreme weather, wind storms, mudslides, bridge failures, and other unexpected emergencies.

The best way to stay safe is to get notified about a potential danger as early as possible. You can make that happen for yourself, your family, your friends and your neighbors. There are two ways to prepare. Both of them are easy and free.

Sign up for AlertSense, the state's early warning and notification system (click on the "Public Opt-In"). You can choose what activities you want to be alerted about. You

can have your alerts go to your text messages, voice messages or email - or all of the above. Your zip code and address is used to tailor alerts for where you live. You can add more alerts or update your contact methods at any time.

If you use a cellphone (and even if you don't), you will want to sign up for Smart911. You can store critical information for use by emergency responders. Please list your emergency contacts, home address and any medical conditions to assist the first responders.

These services are national organizations, not run by the County, but they do coordinate closely with Snohomish County 911 dispatch and with the county's emergency management team.

Give a gift of safety to everyone - it takes five minutes and it is free.

#### District Events

#### **Mountlake Terrace**



SJHA Arctic Blast Tournament January 15 - 17, 2016

- \* Tournament is open to Squirt/Atom/10U teams registered with USA Hockey or Hockey Canada.
- \* Tournament is limited to a total of 16 teams. Multiple divisions may be formed based on registered teams and/or relative skill level.
- \* Each team will receive at least four games and a maximum of 6 games.
- \* All games will be played at one of the following rinks:
- \* Olympicview Ice Arena
- \* Lynnwood Ice Center
- \* All teams are required to stay at designated SJHA Host Hotels.
- \* All teams will be required to provide official roster.
- \* Entry fees are non-refundable.
- \* All games will be governed by USA Hockey rules and regulations.
- \* One ice scrape will be allotted for each game.
- \* Locker room facilities will be provided.
- \* 22202 70th Avenue W, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

I hope you found this eNEWSLETTER informative and useful. You can make it even more valuable by suggesting topics and issues for future newsletters. Please contact me at 425-388-3494, or e-mail <a href="mailto:Terry.Ryan@snoco.org">Terry.Ryan@snoco.org</a>. If you would like to share this newsletter, select the **Forward email** link below.

Terry Ryan, Snohomish County Council